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REVIEWS

Bailey, L. H. *The Country Life Movement in the United States.* Pp. xi, 220. Price, \$1.25. New York: Macmillan Company, 1911.

It is seldom that a small book covers such a large problem so effectively as in this case. The country life movement as the author sees it is a desire "to even up society as between country and city," for there is a lack of adjustment between the two which must be remedied, if the present century is to belong to agriculture and the open country as much as to the city.

Some of the more important topics discussed include: (1) the present movement in its national and international phases; (2) inter-relations of city and country; (3) the declining rural population and abandoned farms; (4) the outcome of our industrial civilization; (5) the problem of agricultural education; (6) the relation of women to the country life movement, and (7) the problem of securing community life in the open country. Labor, marketing of crops, country fairs and soil conservation are also discussed at some length.

A multitude of valuable ideas and suggestions concerning country life are found in connection with the different topics. Thus in answering the question, "Can a city man make a living on a farm?" the answer is that he must know how. City men who have made good are the exceptions "unless they began young." "Farming is no longer a poor man's business," and "city people must be on their guard against attractive land schemes," for the cases where it is possible to pay for land and make a living out of it at the same time are few. "Farming is a good business, but it is a business for farmers," and the farmers themselves must be responsible for improving rural conditions.

Although the problem of making country life what it should be cannot be attained by any single means, the author believes that the fundamental need is "to place effectively educated men and women in the open country." Agriculture in the schools is necessary not because it is a concession to farming, but because it is rightly a school subject; without it the public schools do not meet their obligation. Reorganizing the household part of farm life so that woman may be more of a factor in the affairs of her community, and bringing people together so that they may act together on questions affecting the community, are two other great means of developing a better country life.

In conclusion the author suggests that the open country must solve its own problems; that profitable farming is not a sufficient object in life but must be supplemented by social usefulness; that many country professions must be developed; and that good farmers are needed more than millionaires.

It is a broad-vision survey of a big question, with keen analysis of underlying conditions and solid common sense in proposed remedies.

WALTER S. TOWER.

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Ball, J. Dyer. *The Chinese at Home.* Pp. xii, 370. Price, \$2.00. New York: F. H. Revell Company, 1912.

This book in few ways excels many of the works written before it on the Chinese. Some of the illustrations are the work of native artists and give a good idea of

the stage of artistic skill reached by them. The customs of the people are interestingly set forth; but in describing home conditions, we fear, the author has been influenced somewhat by the surroundings in which he is now enjoying "the quiet of English pursuits." One who has lived and traveled in China is tempted to say: he has confined his description of the streets, buildings and homes to those occupied by the gentry. Chapter VI, "John Chinaman Abroad," should be read and mentally digested. In it the reader may see himself as others see him. The horrors of infanticide are briefly told. The statements of this paragraph will prove an antithesis to the statement of Dr. DeGroot, in his book, "The Religion of the Chinese," to the effect that foundling hospitals have been established by humanitarian officials. What these asylums are the author graphically explains. Child labor is hinted at, but its enormity is left for some other writer to unfold. Those who think America is the birthplace of graft will change their minds after reading this book. Chapter XIX may be profitably read by students of economy, and especially by American housewives. The dangers to which foreign women who marry Chinese expose themselves are briefly set forth. We are glad the author has paid deference to the work and influence of the missionaries in bringing about reforms, but we are disappointed in that he has given but scant notice to the work done by the great number of Chinese who have been educated in the universities of America and England. These men are responsible for the present state of progress in China. On the whole, the book is informing and will prove to be good reading.

CUTHBERT P. NEWTON.

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Baring, Maurice. *The Russian People.* Pp. xix, 356. Price, \$3.50. New York: George H. Doran Company, 1911.

Discussions of Russia by foreigners, are usually unsatisfactory because they are written by casual travelers who cannot interpret what they see, or they assume that the reader is already familiar with the general background of Russian life, or the statements are colored by strong social or national bias.

Hon. Maurice Baring, the author of this volume, is especially fortunate in being free from these limitations and his chapters will on that account be welcomed by a large circle of readers. His long experience in the British diplomatic service in Russia, and his later activities as Russian representative of the London press, have given him an unusual insight into the national life. Maps showing the historical growth of the country, its soil formation, racial elements and political divisions make it easy to follow the discussion of unfamiliar facts.

The first fifty pages give a picture of the Russians themselves, of the physical character of the country, its agricultural wealth, its river systems and its industrial developments. Then a hundred pages give a brief review of Russian history with emphasis on the politics of expansion. But the chapters which will claim the attention of most of his readers come in the latter half of the book dealing with the internal economic and political problems of Russia since the emancipation of the serfs. The contrast between local autonomy and the